



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE HENRY SHAW SCHOOL OF BOTANY.

INAUGURAL EXERCISES.

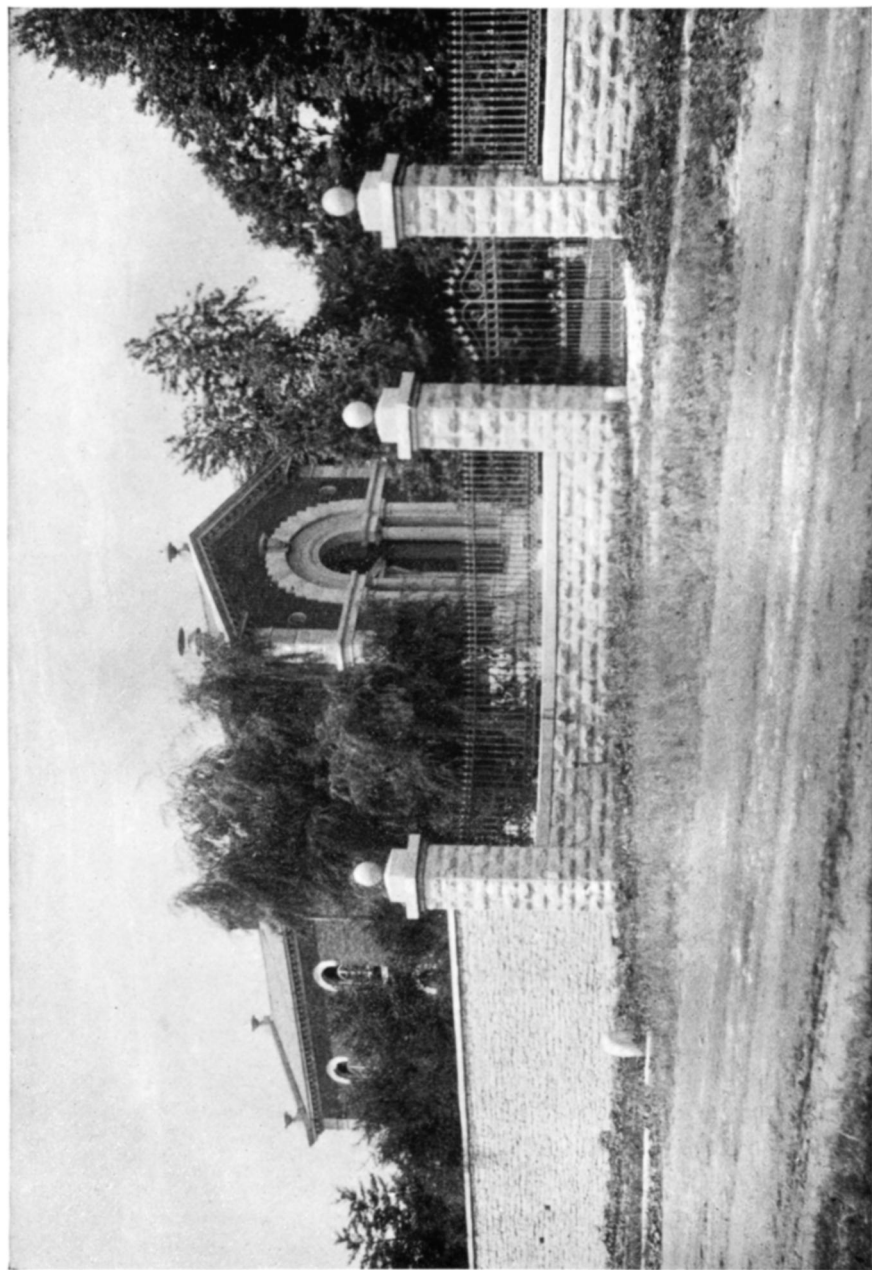
IN MEMORIAL HALL, NOVEMBER 6, 1885.

Prayer having been offered by the Rev. James G. Merrill, Pastor of the First Congregational Church, the following Historical Statement was made by the Chancellor of the University: —

This evening, Washington University inaugurates a new Department of scientific work. In some respects the enterprise is particularly worthy of note.

Heretofore, from the very beginning, every step in our progress has been taken, as it were, in the dark, as when one puts his foot forward not knowing whether it will be upon firm ground or in vacancy, with reasonable fear that each step might be the last. As one Department after another has developed itself, we have been building upon hope, with only that assurance of success which earnest faith and endeavor always inspire. Looking back through all these years of trial and difficulty, we may well be surprised at the steadfastness of purpose and munificent generosity of those who have worked with us, so many of whom have passed away, but of whom some of the most faithful are yet left, while younger men are rising up, from time to time, worthily to fill the vacant places.

To-day, we have met to inaugurate a new enterprise in one of the highest departments of scientific culture, not only with ample endowment for the present, but with wise provision, if we know how to do our work faithfully and well, for future development and growth.



THE MUSEUM GATE.

It is nearly two years ago that the suggestion was first made to me by our fellow-citizen Mr. Henry Shaw, and it seemed to me almost too good to be true. But after several consultations with Dr. Asa Gray, the distinguished botanist of Harvard University, Mr. Shaw authorized me to place before the Board of Directors a definite plan of action, as follows:—

That he proposed with concurrence of the Directors, to endow a SCHOOL OF BOTANY as a Department of Washington University, by donation of improved real estate, yielding over \$5,000 revenue, and to place it in such relation with the largely endowed “Missouri Botanical Garden and Arboretum,” as would practically secure their best uses, for scientific study and investigation, to the professor and students of the said School of Botany, in all time to come.

Dr. Gray had taken a most kindly interest in this movement, and had twice visited St. Louis on Mr. Shaw’s invitation, for the special purpose of consulting with him and others, as to the best methods of action in organization of the school. By his recommendation, correspondence was opened with Mr. Wm. Trelease, Professor of Botany in Wisconsin University, at Madison, a graduate of Cornell University, who had already attained to a high rank in this department of science, and who visited Mr. Shaw to inform himself of the leading features of the proposed situation.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held June 8, 1885, the following resolutions were, therefore, offered, in grateful acceptance of Mr. Shaw’s proposal:—

1. That a School of Botany be established as a special department of Washington University, to be known as the

HENRY SHAW SCHOOL OF BOTANY.

2. That a Professorship of Botany be therein established, to be known as the Engelmann Professorship.

3. That Professor Wm. Trelease, of Wisconsin University, be invited to fill the same; his duties to begin at the commencement of the next academic year, September 17th.

4. That said School of Botany be placed under the special care and direction of an Advisory Committee, to consist of five members, of

whom *two* shall be members of this Board, and *two* shall be selected outside of the Board, — the Chancellor of the University being a member *ex officio*.

This report was accepted and the resolutions unanimously adopted. The record of such action was then submitted to Mr. Shaw and approved by him. Subsequently, by deed of gift, improved real estate was conveyed by the donor to the University, yielding \$5,400 per annum, the rental of which from July 1, 1885, has been paid over to the University Treasurer, to be kept, as the whole revenue will always be, separate and apart from all other uses, for the support of the Professorship, and incidental expenses.

Prof. Trelease accepted his nomination, as Engelmann Professor of Botany, and has been actively engaged in his duties since 17th September last.

The special Advisory Committee for the School of Botany has been appointed as follows: —

MR. HENRY SHAW,	DR. ASA GRAY,
HON. JOHN H. LIGHTNER,	DR. GEO. J. ENGELMANN.

The two first named are members of the Board of Directors of the University.

It would perhaps be well for me to stop here and give place to Prof. Trelease; but the name of Engelmann awakens in my mind a reminiscence, connecting the present movement, at least by association, with the infant days of science in St. Louis.

More than forty years ago, five or six young men, of whom I was one, met together, on Main Street, near Chestnut, in the office of the Honorable Judge, Mary P. Leduc. The object was to found an Academy of Science, but not one of our number really knew enough of science to found a primary school, except Dr. George Engelmann, who was an enthusiastic student, especially in botanical research, and who inspired us all with something of his zeal. We organized a society and proceeded to purchase five or six acres of ground, far out of the city, I think near Eighth Street and Chouteau Avenue. There Dr. Engelmann began a botanical garden and arboretum on a small scale. It

was kept up, after a fashion, for some years, but the society faded out and the land was sold, and apparently there was an end of the academy. But under the law of the survival of the fittest, Dr. Engelmann "survived" and became an academy of science in himself. In the midst of professional cares, as a successful and highly honored physician, he made botany his darling pursuit. By correspondence, by contribution of carefully prepared articles for journals of science in this country and Europe, by personally visiting different regions in the West and South, he prosecuted his studies and became known in schools of science everywhere, taking an acknowledged place among distinguished names. So quietly and modestly did he work that few persons in St. Louis knew how much he was doing, but for many years before his decease he had found cordial welcome in the "Missouri Botanical Garden," where his real merit was known and cordially appreciated. It is a pleasant thing for us to learn that his writings, now scattered over the world and inaccessible, will be collected and edited by Dr. Asa Gray and other competent hands to be suitably published, with illustrative plates, a large and costly work, for which Mr. Henry Shaw has generously guaranteed the funds. I also hope that Dr. Engelmann's exceptionally valuable herbariums, the systematic collection of a lifetime, now under the control of his son, will form a part of the accessible riches of the Henry Shaw School of Botany.

Taking into account, therefore, the fact that we have an Engelmann Professorship established, together with other associations already named, may I not justly say that there is a connecting link between those feeble efforts of early days and the larger promise of our present undertaking? Thus giving proof of the universal truth, that no earnest and persistent effort in good work is ever permanently lost.

I have now the honor of introducing to you Mr. William Trelease, Engelmann Professor in the Henry Shaw School of Botany.